



U.S. European Command

Communication and Engagement Directorate - Media Operations Division

Comm: +49 (0) 711 680 6868/6618/8010 / DSN: 314-430-6868/6618/8010

eucom.mediaops@gmail.com

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OPERATION ATLANTIC RESOLVE (JUNE 2015)

- Operation Atlantic Resolve is a demonstration of our continued commitment to the collective security of NATO and dedication to the enduring peace and stability in the region, in light of the Russian intervention in Ukraine specifically.
- U.S. commitment to the security of every NATO ally is resolute and uniform. In meeting our global security commitments, the United States must have strong, committed and capable allies, which is why we have fought, exercised and trained with our European allies for the past 70 years. The U.S.-European strategic partnership is built on a foundation of shared values, experiences and vision.
- The U.S. took several immediate steps to demonstrate solidarity with our NATO allies, such as augmenting the air, ground and naval presence in the region, and enhancing previously scheduled exercises.
- Russia's aggressive actions have already led many to call for reinforcing NATO's readiness through Article 5-related planning training and adjustments to force posture.
- Operation Atlantic Resolve will remain in place as long as the need exists to reassure our allies and deter Russia from regional hegemony.

European Reassurance Initiative

ERI is part of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015, signed by President Obama on December 19, 2014, included \$985 million in ERI funds. These monies enable the Department of Defense to continue its efforts to reinforce America's solemn commitment to the safety and territorial integrity of our allies and to strengthen the security and capacity of our partners in the region.

The ERI enables the DoD to, among other things: Continue Operation Atlantic Resolve, which includes conducting military exercises and training on land, in the air and at sea, while sustaining a rotational presence across Europe; and increase the responsiveness of U.S. forces to reinforce NATO by exploring initiatives such as prepositioning of equipment and enhancing reception facilities in Europe.

ERI funding will help increase the capability, readiness and responsiveness of NATO forces, primarily through the funding of rotational force presence in Eastern Europe, as well as through the improvement of ground and air training and staging sites. Combined training and theater security cooperation engagements with our Allies and partners demonstrate that we share a commitment to promoting a Europe that is whole, free and at peace.

The ERI is already increasing responsiveness and readiness by pre-positioning ammunition, fuel and equipment for use in regional training and exercises, as well as improving infrastructure that enhances NATO operations and enables Eastern Allies to rapidly receive reinforcements. For more information on ERI, go to: <http://www.eucom.mil/media-library/article/33026/eucom-provides-update-on-the-european-reassurance-initiative>

DoD Efforts to Date

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Land

- **Exercise Saber Strike 15** (Jun. 8-19) Saber Strike is a long-standing U.S. Army Europe-led cooperative training exercise. This year's exercise objectives will focus on promoting interoperability with regional partners and improving joint operational capability in a variety of missions to prepare the participating nations and units for future operations. Participating nations include Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland as well as Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom, and the United States. The exercise will be held in four locations: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland.
- **Exercise Platinum Eagle** (May 18-28) Romania hosted Bulgarian and U.S. forces during a multinational exercise designed to demonstrate the ever-increasing capability of NATO allies to defend Eastern Europe. This exercise, which occurs annually with Marines and Sailors from the Black Sea Rotational Force, and Romanian and Bulgarian forces, took place at the Babadag Training Area. Functional training areas consisted of basic-infantry skills, advanced marksmanship, company-level command and control, and use of anti-armor weapon systems.
- **Operation Cavalry March:** (May 13-14) 350 U.S. Army Soldiers and 80 vehicles (Strykers and wheeled support vehicles) from the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment conducted a 400 kilometer road march across Romania from Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base to the Cincu Training Area. A joint Romanian and U.S. effort to honor the past, build upon the future and demonstrate NATO interoperability, Cavalry March served as the lead-in to "Sarmis 15," a combined Canadian, British, Romanian, and U.S. exercise held in Cincu. A-10's from the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, forward deployed to Campia Turzii, demonstrated close air support by performing multiple low passes over the convoy. Cavalry March also featured community events including a welcome ceremony, vehicle static displays, sporting events between U.S. & Romanian soldiers and a wreath laying at the WWII Heroes Memorial.
- **Exercise Noble Partner:** (May 11-24) Approximately 600 military personnel, to include 200 U.S. soldiers, participated in Exercise Noble Partner at the Vaziani Training Area in Georgia. The exercise was a critical part of Georgia's training for their contribution of a light infantry company to the NATO Response Force. The exercise focused on unified land operations and included field training and live-fire exercises. Participating U.S. forces included U.S. Army Europe's 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, the Army's CONUS-based contribution to NATO Response Force 2015.
- **Exercise Combined Resolve IV:** (May 15-Jun. 6) U.S. Army's Regionally Aligned Forces to Europe trained alongside NATO allies and partner nations at the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels training areas in Germany. The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division (Raiders) from Ft. Stewart, Georgia, participated as the main U.S. Army brigade. They utilized pre-positioned tanks and equipment of the European Activity Set under the command and control of the 4th Infantry Division, the regionally-aligned division HQ in Europe. CR IV included multinational combat maneuver training in Hohenfels and culminated in a combined-arms live-fire exercise in Grafenwoehr that blended virtual, simulated, and live armored and mechanized infantry formations to replicate a complex combat environment.

- **Operation Dragoon Ride:** (Mar. 21 – Apr. 01) The 2nd Cavalry Regiment OAR training rotation concluded with a capstone event named, Operation Dragoon Ride, an 1,800 kilometer road march which crossed five allied borders between Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, and Germany and tested the regiment’s leadership and sustainment capabilities. The exercise demonstrated the freedom of movement that exists within NATO, afforded U.S. soldiers an opportunity to engage with community members along the route, and reinforced U.S. commitment to our NATO partners.
- **Exercise Saber Junction 15:** (Mar. 23-Apr.31) More than 4,700 participants from 17 nations participated in multiple training activities, which occurred simultaneously in Germany, Lithuania and Romania. SJ15 kicked-off with an airborne assault at the Smardan Drop Zone in Romania by paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, followed by decisive action training by the 2nd Cavalry Regiment with multinational land forces at the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, Hohenfels Training Area. Command and control functions were exercised through simulations, connecting distributed locations across all three countries.
- **3rd Infantry Division:** (Mar.15 –Jun. 15) 3ID’s 1st Brigade assumed responsibility for the U.S. Army’s OAR land forces training mission. Approximately 150-200 Soldiers are training in each of the following four countries: Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. On March 9, 110 vehicles were offloaded in Riga, Latvia, and were shipped to the Baltic states, while other equipment was off-loaded in Bremerhaven, Germany. After the 3ID rotates, more than 120 pieces of equipment will be relocated to Germany to support the European Activities Set.
- **4th Infantry Division Headquarters:** (Feb.-Dec. 2015) Approximately 100 Soldiers from the 4ID Mission Command Element deployed to Germany to serve as the division-level headquarters for United States Army, Europe under the Army’s Regionally Aligned Forces.
- **2nd Cavalry Regiment** (Jan. 14-Mar. 31) -- Approximately 550 Soldiers and 75 Stryker vehicles from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment trained with our allies in Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in support of OAR. 2CR conducted a variety of training events alongside Soldiers from NATO and partner nations. Training events focused on individual and team tasks that culminated in joint platoon level-events, such as live fires. This was the first Stryker unit to deploy to the Baltic nations and Poland in support of OAR and it is the second brigade-sized element from U.S. Army Europe to support the mission.

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Special Operations Forces (SOF)

- **Joint Combined Exchange Training:** (Mar. 25) Ten members of U.S. Special Operations Command Europe conducted a Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) program with 36 members of Special Police Units of the Ministries of Interior of the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska in order to develop military tactics and skills in unfamiliar settings while also developing interoperability with partner nation forces.
- **Medical Assistance Team:** (Western Ukraine, Nov-Dec 14) A medical team from Special Operations Command Europe deployed from Stuttgart, Germany, to Western Ukraine in order to coach and mentor Ukrainian Ministry of Defense personnel on basic battlefield medical procedures in order to enhance point of injury care. Initially the mission focused on coaching and mentoring more than 300 Ukrainian Ministry of Defense personnel (military) to develop a pool of individuals who are capable of conducting basic battlefield medical care.

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Air

- **Flying Training Deployment with Poland/Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Rotation:** (2-30 June) Four F-16s from the 52nd Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, and four F-16s from the 169th Fighter Wing, South Carolina Air National Guard, are participating in this bi-lateral training rotation aimed at maintaining readiness and reassuring NATO allies and regional partners.
- **Theater Security Package, Bulgaria:** (May 5 – June 25) Twelve A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and approximately 200 Airmen from the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron forward deployed as part of the first-ever Theater Security Package to Graf Ignatievo, Bulgaria. The unit will conduct training alongside our NATO allies to strengthen interoperability.
- **Exercise Hedgehog:** (May 4-12) Approximately 66 Airmen and 4 A-10s from the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron deployed to Amari Air Base, Estonia, at the invitation of the Estonian Defense Forces. The 354th FS trained with the Estonian air forces to improve interoperability in allied air operations and train multi-national Close Air Support operations in support of ground combat forces. Also, 150 Army Soldiers from the 173rd IBCT and one tank platoon from the 2nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division participated in the exercise.
- **Theater Security Package, Romania:** (Mar. 30-Jun. 30) Twelve A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and 200 Airmen from the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron forward deployed as part of the first-ever Theater Security Package to Campia Turzii, Romania. The unit will conduct training alongside our NATO allies to strengthen interoperability.
- **Theater Security Package, Netherlands and Bulgaria:** (Mar. 27- Jun. 30) Twelve F-15Cs from the 125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard, Jacksonville, Fla., deployed to Leeuwarden, Netherlands, and Graf Ignatievo, Bulgaria, to conduct training alongside our NATO allies.
- **Poland Aviation Detachment:** (Mar.23-Apr. 17) Four C-130 aircraft, including two from the 86th Airlift Wing and two from the 302nd Airlift Wing (AFRC) from Peterson Air Force Base, are participating in bilateral training with the Polish Air Force at Powidz, Poland.
- **Flying Training Deployment, Amari, Estonia:** (Mar. 19-Apr. 17) Fourteen F-16s and approximately 280 Airmen from the 510th Fighter Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy, deployed to Amari Air Base to participate in a flying training deployment with the Estonian Air Force. The 510th FS trained with the Estonian Air Force on Tapa Range with Estonian Joint Terminal Attack Controllers focusing on maintaining joint readiness while building interoperability capabilities. The 510th FS also participated in simultaneous but unrelated training with Finnish and Swedish air forces in their airspace.
- **Flying Training Deployment, Romania:** (Mar. 16-27) Six F-16Js and approximately 100 Airmen from the 52nd Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, participated with the Romanian Air Force in a bilateral flying training deployment at Campia Turzii, Romania. Supported by the 435th Air Ground Operations Wing, the 52nd Fighter Squadron participated in the bilateral event to strengthen interoperability with Romania and readiness to conduct combined air operations.
- **Theater Security Package Deployment to Spangdahlem Air Base:** (Feb. 10, 2015) Twelve A-10 aircraft, 300 Airmen and support equipment from the 354th Fighter Squadron, 355th Fighter Wing from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, are conducting a six month deployment in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve and the new Theater Security Package

mission. The term Theater Security Package, or TSP, refers to the routine deployment of additional fighter squadrons, support personnel and equipment to bolster U.S. forces in Europe on a rotating basis, conducting flying training deployments and off- station training with our NATO allies to further enhance interoperability.

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Sea

- **BALTOPS 15** (Jun. 5-20) Seventeen NATO and partner nations are participating in the 43rd iteration of the multinational maritime exercise BALTOPS 2015 in Poland, Sweden, Germany, and throughout the Baltic Sea, June 5-20, 2015. Approximately 5,600 ground, maritime, and air forces from participating nations are demonstrating air defense, maritime interdiction, anti-subsurface warfare, and amphibious operations in a joint environment to ensure regional security. BALTOPS is an annually reoccurring multinational exercise designed to enhance flexibility and interoperability, as well as demonstrate resolve of allied and partner forces to defend the Baltic region. Participating nations include Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, United States, and the United Kingdom.
- **USS Laboon (DDG 58):** (Mar.29-Apr.2, 2015) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer conducted a port visit to Haifa, Israel, and conducted a media availability on April 2. She continues to operate in theater to reaffirm the United States' commitment to promote peace and stability with our allies and partners in the region.
- **USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109):** (Black Sea, Apr. 2015) Will operate in the Black Sea to promote peace and stability in the region. The ship's presence in the Black Sea demonstrates the United States' commitment to working closely with allies to enhance maritime security and stability, readiness, and naval capability, and our commitment to promote peace and stability to our NATO allies in the region.
- **USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71):** (Mediterranean Sea, Apr. 2015) The Nimitz-class nuclear powered aircraft carrier continues to operate in theater to reaffirm the United States' commitment to promote peace and stability with our allies and partners.
- **USS Ross (DDG 71):** (Apr. 2015) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer continues to operate in theater to reaffirm the United States' commitment to promote peace and stability with our allies and partners in the region.
- **USS Cole (DDG 67):** (Black Sea, Feb. 2015) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer conducted a NATO Underway Engagement with the Romanian navy ship ROS Marasesti on Feb. 12. The engagements which were designed to enhance maritime capabilities included tactical maneuvering exercises, passenger transfers, bridge-to-bridge communication drills, and simulated threat defenses with aircraft. Cole arrived in Constanta, Romania, Feb. 9, for a port visit and departed Feb. 13. Cole's visit to Romania provided Sailors with the opportunity to engage with their Romanian counterparts on both a professional and personal level along with reaffirming to NATO allies that the U.S. Navy shares a commitment to strengthening ties while working toward mutual goals of promoting peace and stability in the Black Sea region.
- **USS Donald Cook (DDG 75):** (Jan. 11, 2015) Conducted underway passing exercise with UKRS Hetman Sahaidachny (U130) and continued Black Sea operations through mid-January.

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Upcoming Exercises:

- **Exercise Saber Guardian / Rapid Trident 15:** (Jul. 20-31) Exercise Saber Guardian / Rapid Trident is the combination of a Command Post Exercise held in Romania and a Field Training Exercise held in Ukraine scheduled to take place in July 2015. The exercise is part of U.S. European Command's Joint Exercise Program designed to enhance joint combined interoperability with allied and partner nations. Saber Guardian / Rapid Trident 2015 supports interoperability between Ukraine, the U.S., NATO member nations and other Partnership for Peace nations.
- **Exercise Allied Spirit II:** (Aug. 4-24) More than 1,600 participants from Canada, Hungary, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and the U.S. will participate in Exercise Allied Spirit II, which will enhance NATO interoperability at brigade and battalion levels and test secure communications amongst Alliance members. The exercise will take place at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, showcasing the world class facility and highlighting its capabilities, allowing allies and partners to connect – personally, professionally, and tactically – to create stronger, more capable forces.

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Related Initiative (Not in support of OAR): Support to Ukraine

- **Train and Equip Ukraine's National Guard:** "Fearless Guardian," the training being provided to the Ukraine National Guard by U.S. Army Europe's 173rd Airborne Brigade out of Vicenza, Italy, began April 21, 2015. Approximately 290 troops, mostly from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, are conducting the National Guard training mission at the International Peacekeeping and Security Center, in Yavoriv, which is in western Ukraine, near the border with Poland. They are training six Ukrainian National Guard companies (~780 Ukrainians), with a focus on internal defense. There will also be some training for headquarters personnel.
 - Funding for the training has been authorized by Congress and is provided by the Global Security Contingency Fund (GSCF), a U.S. government mechanism enacted in the past few years to provide security sector assistance for partner countries so they can address emergent challenges and opportunities important to U.S. national security. Body armor, night vision devices, and sets of communications equipment already arrived at Kyiv's Borispol Airport on April 8. These items, worth over \$3 million, are provided under the authority of the \$19 million Global Security Contingency Fund (GSCF) for training Ukraine's National Guard units.
 - This training mission meets U.S. and partner national interests by demonstrating U.S. commitment to security in the Black Sea region, and demonstrating the value of forward stationed forces accustomed to training with partner nations.
- **Additional \$46 million in Security Assistance:** As part of the Sept. 18 White House announcement, an additional \$25 million has been allocated to the Ukrainian Armed Forces through the Presidential Drawdown authority; and an additional \$21 million will support the State Border Guard through Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) funds. This includes non-lethal military equipment and supplies such as counter-mortar radars, body armor, helmets, vehicles, night and thermal vision devices, heavy engineering equipment, advanced radios, patrol boats, rations, tents, uniforms and other items.

- **Assistance & Advisory teams:** U.S. European Command and DoD civilian and military experts have initiated a process to work with Ukraine to improve its capacity to provide for its own defense and set the stage for longer-term defense cooperation. Specifically, EUCOM deployed medical & security assistance advisory teams to Kyiv to help improve Ukraine's combat medical care and identify areas for additional security assistance.
- **Foreign Military Financing:** In addition to the 300,000 MREs delivered in March, the U.S. has also provided Foreign Military Financing to support Ukraine's armed forces with medical supplies, Explosive Ordnance Disposal equipment and various items of individual military equipment.
- **Reforming Defense Institutions:** Defense Department experts in strategy and policy continue to meet with Ukrainian defense officials in Kyiv, to assess specific defense institution building activities/programs we may want to pursue. The objective is to shape and establish an enduring program for future U.S. efforts to support the Ukrainian military, through subject matter expert teams and long-term advisors.

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*** For older Operation Atlantic Resolve information, please see the OAR 2014 Fact Sheet at: ***
<http://www.eucom.mil/operation-atlantic-resolve>